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## ANNE, DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND

OF Gainsborough's portrait of Anne, Duchess of Cumberland, its beauty and the charm of its coloring, much has been written. But of the lady herself, whose counterfeit presentment has passed through Messrs. Scott and Fowles into the possession of Mr. Henry E. Huntington, little has been said, presumably because little has been discovered about her in the ordinary books of reference. But by delving in Walpole and other diarists of the period and also by looking through the "Anglo-Saxon Review," her personality can be partially reconstructed.

The portrait is one of several presentations of the lady by Gainsborough. The Duke and Duchess approved of this portrait painter, for together they sat as many as twelve times to him. The Duchess was a prominent figure in the social life of that period. She came of the Lutterell family, who were well regarded by King George as henchmen of the Court, and it was her brother, the Colonel, who represented the Court interest against Wilkes in the dire struggle of the Middlesex election.

According to Walpole, this lady was much in love with her first husband, Mr. Horton, whom she lost with their infant daughter within a fortnight. There is an unusual touch of tenderness in Walpole's mention of the poor lady's trouble, whom he describes as "covering her grief for the daughter in

order to conceal the misfortune from her husband." He adds "she was rather pretty than handsome, and had more the air of a woman of pleasure than a lady of quality, though she was well made, was graceful and unexceptionable in her conduct and behavior. But there was something in her languishing eyes which she could animate to enchantment if she pleased, and her coquetry was so active and so varied, and yet so habitual, that it was difficult not to see through it, and yet as difficult to resist it. She danced divinely, and had a great deal of wit, but of the satiric kind; and as she had haughtiness before her rise, no wonder she claimed all the observances due to her rank after she became Duchess of Cumberland."

Some time after her double bereavement Mrs. Horton went to Brighton where she met Prince Henry, Duke of Cumberland, younger brother of George III., a feeble and dissipated youth. He fell head-over-ears in love with the handsome widow, and on November 1, 1771, they ran away to Calais, where they were secretly married.

When the Duke's mother, the Princess Dowager of Wales, heard of her son's match, her fury knew no bounds; her indignation being shared by the bridegroom's brother, George III., and his Queen. Writing to George Selwyn in that year, Lord Carlisle says; "I hear Mr. Delaval met the Dutchess of Cumberland at Calais, and kissed her hand." She said it "was disagreeable at first, but she should soon be used to it." The marriage was legal, as the Royal Family had been specially exempted from Lord Hardwicke's Mar-

riage Act by the King himself, who had declared it was an indignity to the Princes of the Blood Royal to be placed on a level with the rest of his subjects. The marriage of the Cumberlands was, therefore, additionally unpleasant to the haughty young monarch; and it was owing to this marriage that the Royal Marriage Act was drawn up and passed, in March 1772, declaring it illegal for all the descendants of George II., to contract marriages without the royal consent given under the Great Seal.

Of the Duchess, Horace Walpole writes further: "She has the most amorous eyes in the world, and eyelashes a yard long, coquette beyond measure, artful as Cleopatra, and completely mistress of all her passions and projects." But this is thought by Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower to be written in "Horry's" most exaggerated style. "That Anne Lutterell was 'mistress of all her passions' is praise indeed; but I no more believe that she was a coquette, or as 'artful as Cleopatra,' than I believe she had eyelashes a yard long."



"ANNE, DUCHESS OF CUMBERLAND"

Portrait by Gainsborough

Collection of Henry E. Huntington, Esq.